(b) and (c) Road Under Bridges at 3 locations *i.e.* Chola Road, Rachana Nagar and Subhash Nagar are feasible. Road Under Bridge at Aishbag is not feasible due to site conditions. Railway will take up execution of these works after the initial formalities are completed by the State Government/Local authority and full estimated cost is deposited with the Railways.

Gauge conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia Line

†3555. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the matter regarding gauge conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia narrow gauge line in Madhya Pradesh has been under Government's consideration;

(b) whether any action in the matter has been taken so far by the department;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) by when the work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Conversion of Jabalpur—Gondia narrow gauge line into broad gauge is a sanctioned project. The work has been taken up on Gondia-Balaghat section and the final location survey is in progress from Balaghat to Jabalpur. The target date of completion of this project has not yet been fixed.

Passenger Amenities in Railways

3556. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been no increase/improvement in passenger amenities in the Railways, in comparison to increase in passenger fares, for the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any time-bound action plan has been prepared for this purpose;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, whether Government would bring out and implement such a plan in future; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Provision and augmentation of passenger amenities at the stations is a continuous process. Moreover, in order to bring visible, qualitative and effective improvements on each and every item of public utility provided at the stations/platforms, the whole gamut of passenger amenities at stations has been reviewed recently and detailed guidelines have been issued. As per these guidelines, the facilities at stations have been reclassified into three categories *viz.* Minimum Essential Amenities, Recommended Amenities and Desirable Amenities. For provision of these amenities, the stations have been classified into A, B, C, D, E and F categories based on the earnings of the stations. The scale of facilities to be provided as a part of the Minimum Essential Amenities has also been specified. Besides, 186 stations have also been selected on the Railways for provision of upgraded passenger amenities.

Dacoities and Looting in Hirakhand Express

3557. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of dacoities an looting of passengers belongings in Hirakhand Express;

(b) whether such incidents are mostly taking place between Bhubaneshwar and Rourkela; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to curb such incidents and to ensure safety of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railway and Village police), is a state subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on the running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP).